

Bill Vaughan

# The Nonparty Party Break for Husbands

A WOMAN COLUMNIST of the social persuasion informs me that over in London Princess Alexandra and Peter Sellers are giving a charity ball which won't be held. In other words, you send in your pound for a ticket but there's no party to go to.



Bill Vaughan

It seems a sensible idea to the princess, Mr. Sellers and the columnist because these charity bashes have become such a bore, really.

I tend to agree, even though the concept isn't really new. During the last election campaign, a bold and dynamic candidate sold tickets to a \$100-a-plate fund-raising dinner that never happened. The London nonhappening, even though it is not entirely novel, has reminded me of the subject.

For years, possibly centuries, people have bought tickets to things they really didn't want to go to, either because they were in aid

of a good cause, or under social or economic pressure, such as when the boss lets drop the fact that tickets to the style show of which his wife is cohostess are going like hotcakes and any employe who doesn't snap up a half dozen will miss a great opportunity and his next paycheck.

The trouble is that these events actually take place and there is always a difficult decision to make. You would rather do almost anything than attend the ball or the lecture or whatever, but after all you have the 10 bucks or worse invested.

A man's wife will say, "It seems a pity to let the tickets go to waste."

"Not to me it doesn't," her husband replies, scrounging lower in his comfortable chair and letting only his slippered feet peek out from under the newspaper.

"It's a shame," she sighs.

"Not as much a shame as me getting all dressed up and walking around a dance floor for three hours and fighting a frenzied pack of dowagers for a glass of punch. If you were Lucrezia Borgia you'd finish up the last of the poison because it's a pity for it to go to waste."

"IT'S A CHANCE to wear the puce cocktail frock," she laments.

"Do you want to go?" he asks finally, aware of sniffles.

"Of course not," she snaps, "bad night like this and me with a cold, possibly the flu, can't you hear me sniffing?"

"Good," he says.

"Still," she says, "it does seem a pity. Maybe somebody else can use them."

Then we get into those long, involved telephone conversations with people named Laverne and Mimzy and Ethel and Mrs. Wattenbach as to whether they wouldn't like to have the tickets. Not a true word is spoken throughout any of these exchanges.

IT'S ALL: "Walter and I are just heartsick, especially Walter, poor dear, because we had been looking forward to the Annual Hypochondriac Ball tonight. But he is involved with his sudden business crisis and I have to go over and stay with my sister's children while she goes to Des Moines to see her husband's sister get married, and we just can't use these marvy tickets, and naturally, I thought of you first."

Then all have beautiful excuses too and don't even



Eric P. Newman examines a coin after cleaning it.

By Louis Phillips, a Post-Dispatch Photographer

## Hot on Trail Of Old Money

*Eric P. Newman, Coin Collector,  
Is Top Authority in His Field—  
Writes Fourth Book on Subject,  
"Early Paper Money of America"*

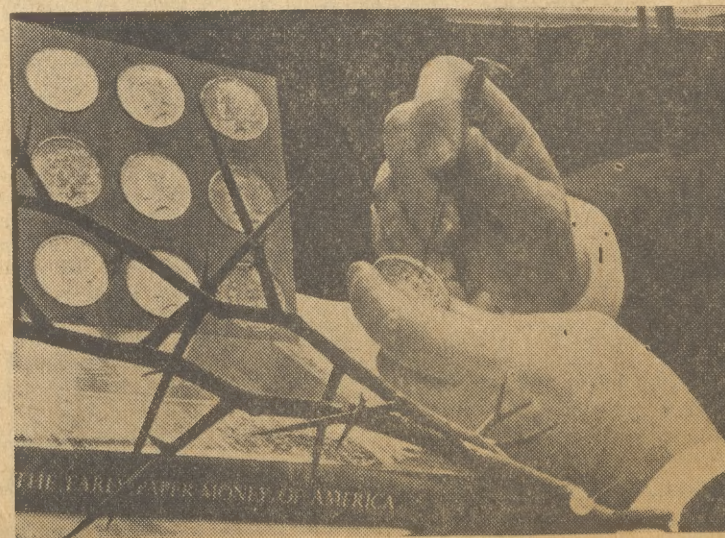
By Olivia Skinner  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

"ADVENTURES I really had," said Eric P. Newman, coin collector.

He has helped Scotland Yard solve a counterfeiting case. He rediscovered a secret printing process perfected by Benjamin Franklin. He spotted one of his

printing plate. But the secret died with Franklin.

Newman examined nature prints and found nail hole marks in the corners of the impressions. From this, he deduced that a separately cast piece of lead had been nailed onto a wood block. He guessed a background of wet cloth from the undulating lines surrounding the leaves.



Newman uses thorns in the cleaning process.

know the background of a coin before that dealer would let him purchase it.

Newman is fascinated with the history of past and present counterfeiting of money. He has written a history of counterfeiting by the British during the American Revolution. The English, he said, gave counterfeiting equipment, paper and inks

ternational police organization, and for Scotland Yard.

The Yard worked with Newman to find the source of five kinds of rare U.S. coins which were forged in England. He traced the coins back from collectors to dealers. Once he insisted on examining some coin auction records in England.

"THE FIRM assumed that I



we just can't use these marvy tickets, and naturally, I thought of you first."

They all have beautiful excuses, too, and don't even believe that they were the first one to be thought of.

The experience is unsatisfactory. It either ends up with the man and his wife finally going to the evening of torture or nobody goes, the tickets aren't used, and a terrible aura of guilt pervades the home.

It is, as the wife says, a pitty, and, as the husband says, 10 bucks tossed away.

The nice part about the nonparty not being given in London is that there is no temptation to go to the thing and no reason to feel guilty for not going since there's nothing to go to. And no nonsense on the telephone trying to fob off the tickets on somebody else.

Not holding more events would save us all a lot of time and trouble and raise just as much money, maybe more. Of course, there might be a few people who really wanted to go to the thing and they would scream fraud, but it's always easy to overlook a nutty minority like that.

## Lawrence Galton

# More for Your Money

**TRENDS AND TIP-OFFS:** If you are interested in buying a home, you now begin to find financing easier. Mortgage loans are more readily obtainable, with interest rates dipping a bit in some areas. Will the rates come down further?



They may as time goes on. But if you need a home now and find one you want, should you wait for lower interest rates? That would be a mistake, most lenders in a recent survey believe. They figure building costs and home prices are bound to rise, very likely by more than any saving lower interest rates could bring. Says one savings and loan officer: "Prices will do nothing but go up."

## Lawrence Galton

### WORK AND LEARN:

College programs that allow a student to spend half the year in the classroom, the other half on the job—with the job often in a field the student wants to pursue after college—are booming. More than 100 institutions, double the number of just five years ago, now offer such programs. Typically, five years are needed for a degree instead of four. But the student not only earns enough to help pay for much of his education, he also gets valuable experience, may earn more than others immediately after graduation, gets a foot in the door.

**HOW IT WORKS OUT:** Latest reports indicate that earnings for the half year jobs average \$1800. After graduation, starting pay offers run 5 to 10 per cent higher than for non-working, inexperienced graduates. More than one-third of graduates stay with the companies or government agencies for whom they worked as undergraduates. Some companies hang on to more than two-thirds of their student workers after they graduate. Some institutions report demand for work-earn graduates is five times greater than supply.

**HEALTH:** Does carpeting in the home constitute an infection hazard, trapping germs during illness, later releasing and spreading them? Apparently not, not even in a hospital. Researchers at an Illinois hospital studied the effect of carpeting on four floors of the hospital. Half of each floor was carpeted, the other half covered with resilient tile. Weekly samplings of bacteria content of the air and of the carpet and tile surfaces were taken. No evidence turned up that carpeting in any way ups the infection hazard.

rediscovered a secret printing process perfected by Benjamin Franklin. He spotted one of his favorite items in a lamasery in Outer Mongolia.

His fourth book, "The Early Paper Money of America," has just been published by Whitman Publishing Co. of Racine, Wis. The 360-page, \$15 volume describes thousands of notes comprising over 500 colonial issues between 1686 and 1789.

Newman, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Washington University School of Law, is vice-president and secretary of Edison Brothers Stores, Inc., operators of the country's largest chain of women's shoe stores.

Some lawyers like to relax with whodunits. Engineers are sometimes intrigued with the elaborate technology described in science fiction. Many successful businessmen like to collect works of art. Newman, 55 years old, finds that collecting and studying old money combines the thrills of all three.

"In the beginning you're attracted because money is a true item from the historical past," he said. "You can own something which may be 100 or 1000 years old, which was used by the people of the period. The money reflects the political history of the times — changes in rulers, boundaries, economics — all are evident in currency."

"The art work is fascinating. All through history, leading artists — Benvenuto Cellini, Paul Revere and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, to name three—have designed money."

"I am particularly fond of the craftsmanship of Benjamin Franklin. He improved methods of printing money, designed emblems for currency and invented many anti-counterfeiting devices."

**NEWMAN**, one of the country's leading authorities on old U.S. money, became deeply involved with Franklin's techniques when the Philadelphia Museum of Art wrote to ask about the Eighteenth century genius's nature printing. These exquisitely executed designs of leaves, ferns, etc. were taken directly from nature for use on bills because no two leaves are exactly alike. They defy imitation.

"When you were a child at school," Newman said, "you probably took a leaf, rubbed ink on both sides and pressed it inside a folded piece of paper. This left an impression of the leaf and its veins. The beauty of the leaf imprint has been known since Leonardo's day. Some Seventeenth century botanical books were printed in limited quantities this way, from actual leaves and flowers."

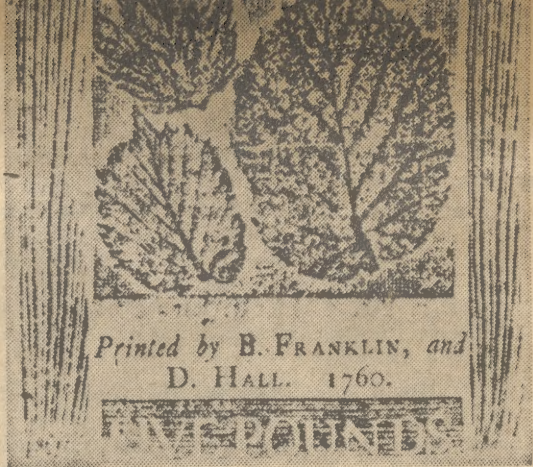
Newman said that Franklin used plaster strengthened with brick dust and asbestos to cast the impression of a leaf or a feather. Hot lead was poured into the plaster cast to make a

onto a wood block. He guessed a background of wet cloth from the undulating lines surrounding the leaves.

"I ASKED MYSELF how I would have done this if I had been living in 1740," Newman said. "I took a wet leaf, laid it on a wet cloth and pressed the whole thing onto wet newspaper for support. Then I spread wet plaster on top of that and made my cast."

Newman's favorite motto on paper money was also concocted by Franklin: "Fugio Mind Your Business," which freely translated means "Time Flies, So Mind Your Business."

Other currency mottoes of the era included North Carolina's "Quaerenda Pecunia Primum est," (Seeking money comes first,) and South Carolina's pro-



Five-pound note printed by "B. Franklin and D. Hall," 1760.



A \$70 bill, dated 1779, printed in South Carolina. Art on currency was made as intricate and elaborate as possible in an effort to foil counterfeiters.

phetic statement, "Misera Omni Servatus" (Slavery of all kinds is wretched).

Newman said that a sincere collector acquires a scholar's interest in his subject. Many di-

lettante collectors get enjoyment merely from the possession of old coins and paper money, he said, but full pleasure demands much study.

He traces his current and

deep interest in history to numismatics. As a boy 10 years old he began his collection under the watchful eye of the late Burdette G. Johnson, St. Louis coin dealer. Newman had to

## Jules Feiffer Looks at the World

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE C.I.A. ACTED: WRONGLY.

BUT MY MOTHER SAID: IT ONLY BACKED WORTHY CAUSES.

AND MY FATHER SAID: YOU'VE GOT TO BE PRACTICAL.

AND SENATOR KENNEDY SAID: WE'RE NOT LIVING IN A DREAM WORLD.

SO I APPLIED TO MY MOTHER FOR A \$500 GRANT TO RESPECT HER.

AND I APPLIED TO MY FATHER FOR A \$1500 GRANT TO BE ON HIS SIDE WHEN HE FIGHTS WITH MY MOTHER.

AND I APPLIED TO SENATOR KENNEDY FOR A \$10,000 GRANT TO NOT LOSE MY FAITH IN HIM.

WE'RE NOT LIVING IN A DREAM WORLD.